

ZION UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

(EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED)

THOMASVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA



FIFTIETH

ANNIVERSARY OF ORGANIZATION

1909 - 1959



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Zion United Church of Christ

Rev. Bobby R. Bonds, Pastor

THOMASVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

INTRODUCTION

Zion Church has a rich history. This booklet is an attempt to pass on to each of you something of the past so that you will live in the present and look to the future in the hope of greater and more glorious things.

It is to God's Glory and His Life Giving Spirit that this booklet is humbly dedicated. May His mercy continue to show itself in our midst as we remember the things that He has done with us. Let us also remember all those who have gone before us, organizing and leading the way when there did not seem to be a way. Without their deep faith and trust in Him who keeps us from falling, there would be no Zion Church. Let us remember these leaders who have given us such a rich heritage.

In the first section, you will find a short biographical sketch of each of the ministers and supply ministers who have served Zion throughout the years. We hope you will enjoy reading about these earlier leaders who have been so instrumental in the growth of Zion Church.

Then you will come to the history of the Church. We must confess that this history is very much incomplete. But please remember that the first records have almost been completely lost and that the facts recorded here are based on the material at hand. Perhaps credit should have been given to some, but was not. Please overlook our mistakes.

We hope you will enjoy reading and keeping this booklet as much as we have enjoyed compiling it. To God's Glory, and in remembrance of those who have gone before us, and for your enlightenment, we present this booklet.

Bobby R. Bonds, Pastor
The Anniversary Committee
Mrs. J. Van Cashatt, Chairman
Mrs. Blanche Frazier
Mr. Stamey Mendenhall



WILLIAM H. MCNAIRY

William H. McNairy became pastor of the Thomasville Charge April, 1908, the churches of the Charge being Heidelberg, Calvary, and Emanuel. He was known as an active, energetic man and as an organizer and builder. Therefore, soon after taking up his residence in Thomasville, he began to look around for new fields of service. He found such an opening in a community northwest of the city, about two and a half miles distant, near what is now Hasty School. He found there the need for an organized church, and the people of the community urged him to begin such an enterprise. These people were from what was then known as the Zion Methodist Church. The first service was held in the autumn of 1908 in the home of Mr. J. T. Mendenhall. Mr. McNairy served as pastor of this group until it was received by the Classis of North Carolina, April 27-May 1, 1909, and placed in the Bethel-Zion Charge, December 14, 1909, with Rev. D. E. Bowers as Pastor. Mr. McNairy was forced to give up his pastoral work at that time because of an eye condition. While never officially the pastor of Zion Reformed Church, it can truly be said that Rev. McNairy was its organizer.



DAVID ELI BOWERS

The 32nd name in the list of members received into Calvary Church is that of David Eli Bowers, who was confirmed December 14, 1892. He was the son of Hamilton and Thriphena Bowers, members of Emanuel Church. One year after uniting with Calvary he entered Catawba College and prepared for the Ministry. He was licensed and ordained May 17, 1902.

In 1908, Mr. Bowers was installed as pastor of Bethel Reformed Church of High Point. At the annual meeting of the Classis of North Carolina, April 27-May 1, 1909, Zion Church was received and placed on the roll of the Classis, with Mr. Bowers as pastor. On December 14, 1909, when Classis met at Bethel Church, High Point, the Bethel-Zion Charge was constituted with Rev. D. E. Bowers as pastor. He served this Charge until December 12, 1911. On January 1, 1912, Mr. Bowers became the pastor of the Waughtown Church, Waughtown, N. C. (now Winston-Salem), where he had been instrumental in its early growth. There he served until his death on October 28, 1921.



CHRISTOPHER C. WAGONER

Christopher Columbus Wagoner was born April 30, 1884, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Wagoner, in the Bethel (Bear Creek) community. His education was in the public schools of that day, the Mt. Pleasant Collegiate Institute, Catawba College, and the Central Theological Seminary.

Mr. Wagoner was ordained in 1910 and served the Lincoln Charge until 1912. On October 8, 1912, he accepted a call to the Bethel-Zion Charge, consisting of Zion Church north of Thomasville, and Bethel Church in the western edge of High Point. Here, he served until May 15, 1913 as pastor. On July 1, 1913, Zion Church was placed in the Emanuel Charge. Mr. Wagoner continued to be Zion's supply pastor until the end of 1913.

On February 2, 1916, he accepted a call to the church in Salisbury. His next pastorate was Grace Church, Newton, beginning in 1923. On March 1, 1930, he accepted the pastorate at Conover. His last pastorate was the Upper Davidson Charge, July 31, 1938 to November 1, 1947.

Mr. Wagoner died June 16, 1951 and was laid to rest in the cemetery of Lowerstone Church. He is survived by his wife, who now resides in Lexington, a son, and two daughters.

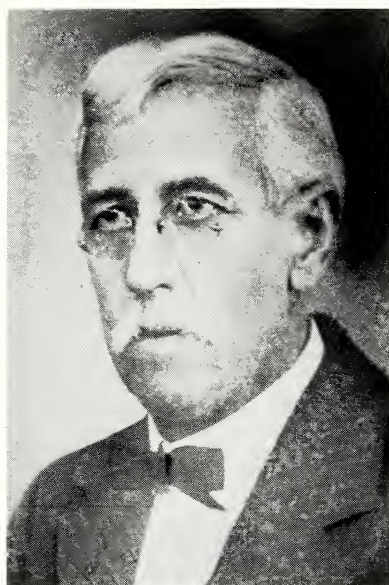


JOHN B. SWARTZ

John B. Swartz was born in Plumsteadville, Pa. on July 8, 1871.

In 1911, he became a Field Worker for the Sunday School Board of the Reformed Church. Finally, in 1914, he was received into the ministry by Tohickon Classis. On February 11, 1914, he was ordained by the North Carolina Classis. On March 2, 1914, Mr. Swartz became the first pastor of the newly formed Emanuel Charge, consisting of Emanuel, Calvary and Zion. He served this charge until May 21, 1915.

Mr. Swartz has also served the South Fork Charge, Newton, N. C., and pastorates at Cheyenne, Kansas and Lescomb, Iowa. On September 1, 1925, he became pastor of the Trunbauersville Charge, Pa. where he served for 17 years until his death on Sunday, October 18, 1942. His widow, Mrs. J. B. Swartz, now lives at Sellersville, Pa.



DOUGAN C. COX

Dougan C. Cox was by birth a member of the Society of Friends (Quaker Church) in which he was a minister for 14 years. He came into the Classis of North Carolina of the Reformed Church in 1910, and served the Gilead Charge, the Guilford Charge, and Burlington. On December 14, 1915, he became pastor of the Emanuel Charge and served for 10 years until December 31, 1925.

Mr. Cox died on December 27, 1932. His body was laid to rest in the Calvary Church Cemetery.



JACOB A. PALMER

J. A. Palmer was born in Stanly County, N. C. He attended the public schools of the county, the Crescent Academy of Rowan County, the old Catawba College of Newton, and Central Seminary of Dayton, Ohio. In 1953, Mr. Palmer was honored at Catawba College with the Doctor of Divinity degree.

Dr. Palmer began his ministry as the pastor of Upper Davidson College where he served until he became pastor of Heidelberg Church in 1918. At Heidelberg, he was pastor for 37½ years until his retirement in 1955. While at Heidelberg, he served as supply pastor of Zion Church in 1926 and part of 1927. Although officially retired, Dr. Palmer continues to preach every Sunday, having served as supply pastor for various Reformed Churches in North Carolina. At present he is supplying Brightwood Church near Gibsonville.

Dr. and Mrs. Palmer now reside in Erwin Heights, Thomasville. They have four children.



STERLING WILFONG WHITENER

Sterling W. Whitener was born in 1896, near Hickory, N. C. There he received his early education. In 1916, he graduated from Catawba College, which was located in Newton at that time. Central Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, graduated him with the B.D. degree in 1919. In the same year, he was licensed and ordained by Rev. J. C. Leonard and the Classis. He also married Miss Marie Anna Hegnauer in 1919 and was commissioned as a Missionary to China, Hunan Province, by the Reformed Church.

During the "Red Revolution," which was fierce in the Hunan Province, China, the Whiteners returned to the United States, in the spring of 1927. The Emanuel Charge was without a pastor at that time, so Rev. Whitener served as supply until the fall of 1928, at which time he and his family returned to their work in China. There he labored until 1940, and the beginning of World War II, when he returned to the United States. While in the States he served as pastor of: the Guilford Charge, 1941-1943; the Mt. Hope-Brick Charge, 1943-1946. The Whiteners returned to China in 1946. Mrs. Whitener died in June, 1948, and was buried in China among the friends she had learned to love. In the same year, Mr. Whitener returned to the United States because of ill health. He passed away September 8, 1950 and was laid to rest in Bethel Cemetery, Catawba County, his home Church.

The Whitener's have three sons, Sterling, Donald, and Robert.



SIDNEY C. SAFRIT

Sidney C. Safrit received the A.B. degree from Catawba College and the B.D. degree from Central Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Safrit has also done graduate work at Duke University and the University of Richmond.

Mr. Safrit served as pastor of the Emanuel Charge from May, 1929 until February, 1933.

For the past twelve years, he has served as principal in the Henrico County, Virginia, Public Schools.



KENDALL B. SHOFFNER

Kendall B. Shoffner was born in Guilford County, N. C., the son of D. Patrick and Mary Shoffner. He was confirmed at Brick Reformed Church.

Mr. Shoffner graduated from Gibsonville High School and continued his education at Catawba College from which he received his degree in 1930. He then received his B.D. degree from The Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.

Mr. Shoffner was ordained at Calvary Church, March 4, 1934, at which time he also became pastor of the Emanuel Charge. He served the churches of this Charge, Emanuel, Calvary, and Zion, until February 28, 1938. From this Charge he served St. James Church, Potomac Synod, and Sharpsville Reformed Church in Western Pennsylvania. In 1945 he served the Robertsville-Paris Church in Ohio, and then St. Paul's Church, Detroit, Michigan. Presently, he is at Zion Church, Henderson, Kentucky.

Mr. Shoffner is married to the former Miss Anne Bready Dutrow. Three children have blessed this union: John Emerson, Rebekah Anne Mary, and Michael Ormond (child deceased).



WILLIAM CLARENCE LYERLY

William C. Lyerly was born November 8, 1889, in Rowan County, N. C., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lyerly. After graduating from Crescent Academy, Rowan County, he entered Heidelberg College at Tiffin, Ohio, graduating in 1910. He then entered Central Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, graduating in 1914. He also did some graduate work at Northwestern University.

Mr. Lyerly held the following pastorates: Bear Creek Charge, 1914-1918; Trinity, Concord, 1918-1927; South Fork Charge, 1927-1931; First, Greensboro, 1931-1937; Emanuel Charge, 1938-1946; and South Fork Charge, 1946-1954. He was also stated supply for the Gilead Charge, 1918-1923.

Mr. Lyerly served on the Board of Managers, Nazareth Orphans' Home from 1923 to 1952 when he was compelled to relinquish some work. In April, 1943, he was elected Secretary of Southern Synod, a position he held until his death, March 22, 1954.

He is survived by his wife, the former Miss Helen Lentz, and four sons: William C., Jr.; Ray Lentz, Albert Malcolm, and Harvey Dick.

Funeral services were conducted from St. Paul's Church, Startown, N. C., March 24, 1954. His body was laid to rest in the Bethel (Bear Creek) Cemetery.



W. CALVIN LEONARD

W. Calvin Leonard received his public school education in Lexington, N. C. He attended Catawba College, Salisbury, N. C. and Franklin and Marshall College of Lancaster, Pa. His theological study was received at the Theological Seminary of the United States. Mr. Leonard also studied at Yale University.

On September 1, 1946, he became the pastor of the Calvary-Zion Charge and served there until 1948. Mr. Leonard became a minister of the Methodist Church in 1949 and has served the following congregations: First Methodist, Marshville, N. C.; St. John's Methodist, Charlotte, N. C.; and is now serving Bradley Memorial Methodist Church, Gastonia, N. C. While in Charlotte, Mr. Leonard won the distinguished award of being one of "The Ten Outstanding Men in Charlotte." He has served on the Methodist Church Board of Hospitals and Homes and heads the Board of Temperance.

Mr. Leonard is married and has two children, a son, Greg, age 8, and a daughter, Marika, age 6.



AUBREY W. HEDRICK

The Rev. A. W. Hedrick graduated from Catawba College with an A.B. degree in 1935. He then entered the Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pa. and received his B.D. degree in 1938.

Mr. Hedrick's first pastorage was the Guilford Charge, consisting at that time of St. Marks, Brick, and Mt. Hope. While there, he organized Brightwood Church. In 1942, he became pastor of the Bear Creek Charge, consisting at that time of St. James, Bethel, and Boger. On December 1, 1948, he became pastor of the Calvary-Zion Charge. This pastorate was terminated with the division of the Charge on January 1, 1956. However, Mr. Hedrick continued to supply Zion until July 1, 1956, when a full-time pastor was called. On June 1, 1957, Mr. Hedrick became pastor of First Church, Winston-Salem, N. C.

While serving the Calvary-Zion Charge, Mr. Hedrick served a two-year term as President of Southern Synod. While in the pastorate, he has from time to time served on The Committee on Christian Education, The Committee on United Promotion, The Committee on Evangelism, and the Board of Trustees of Johns River Camp.

Mr. Hedrick is married to Mrs. Sarah E. Hedrick and has two daughters, Alice, age 16, and Ruth, age 10.



BOBBY RAY BONDS

Bobby Ray Bonds, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Bonds, Burlington, N. C., was born in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, on May 12, 1931.

After graduating from Burlington High School in 1949, he entered Catawba College, Salisbury, N. C., where he graduated with the A.B. degree in History in 1953. After completion of his college work, he entered Yale University Divinity School and graduated with the Bachelor of Divinity degree in June, 1956.

Mr. Bonds was married to the former Miss Elsie Carol Clapp of Whitsett, N. C. on June 11, 1955. They have one son, Jonathan Ray, born April 29, 1958.

Mr. Bonds received a Call in 1956 to become the first full-time pastor of Zion Church. This Call was accepted and he became officially installed as pastor on Sunday, July 22, 1956.

The History of Zion United Church of Christ

Zion Reformed Church had its beginning as a part of the Zion Methodist Church, which stood directly across the road from the present Church. Zion Methodist Church divided in 1908, forming what is now Zion United Church of Christ and Pine Woods Methodist Church.

The Rev. William H. McNairy became pastor of the Thomasville Charge April, 1908, the churches of the Charge being Heidelberg, Calvary, and Emanuel. Being an active energetic man, and known as an organizer and builder, Rev. McNairy took upon himself the task of organizing Zion Reformed Church. The first service of worship was held in the home of J. T. Mendenhall in the autumn of 1908. The services were held regularly on Sunday afternoons in the homes of Mr. Mendenhall and others of the community. Thus Zion Reformed Church had its initial beginning.

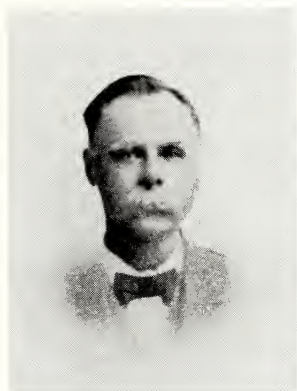


J. T. MENDENHALL HOME

This congregation had its official organization in Mr. Mendenhall's home on February 7, 1909. "The name of this congregation shall be Zion Refomed Church, Thomasville, N. C." states Section 1 and Article 1 of the Constitution adopted that day. The object of this newly formed congregation was stated in Article 2: "The object of this congregation shall be to provide its members with the stated preaching of the word,

and the administration of sacraments, the facilities for public worship, and exercise of Christian discipline and to adopt and prosecute from time to time such measures as are in harmony with the spirit, teaching, and customs of the Reformed Church in the United States, and shall tend to promote the general interest of the Redeemer's kingdom." The Rev. McNairy led the congregation in the election of the first Consistory. Two Elders were elected: J. T. Mendenhall for one year and J. W. Veach for two years. Two Deacons were elected: Levi W. Johnson for one year and E. W. Saintsing for two years. These men were ordained and installed at this service of worship.

THE FIRST CONSISTORY

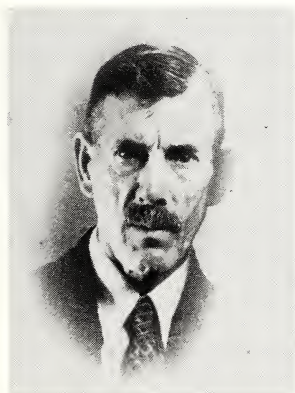


J. T. MENDENHALL

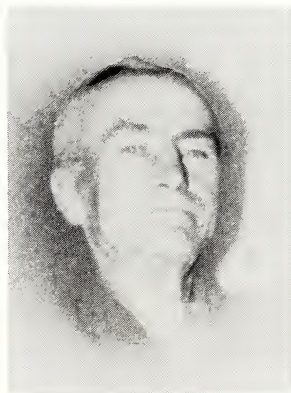


J. W. VEACH

ELDERS



LEVI W. JOHNSON



E. W. SAINTSING

DEACONS

At this service it was also decided to build a Church near Zion Methodist Church. Mr. George Saintsing offered a lot for the building of the Church. It was accepted. As a result of this, two committees were appointed: a Building Committee consisting of Levi W. Johnson, G. W. Saintsing, and Robert Kennedy; and a Finance Committee con-

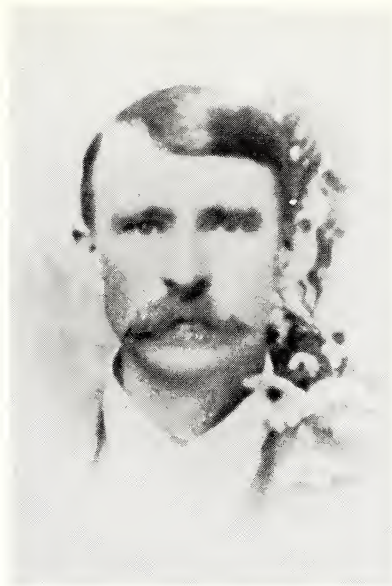
sisting of J. T. Mendenhall, J. W. Veach, and William A. Ensley. Zion Church, thus, had its official organization.

The next meeting was also in a home, March 14, 1909, five weeks after the initial meeting. Rev. W. H. McNairy preached the sermon. The names of 29 members were read and recorded, all having obtained "certificates" of membership from other churches. These Charter Members were (in the order as found in the present Record Book): Phoebe Regan, Courtney Regan, Viola Burton, Eugenia Burton (Jones), Vada Burton (Royes), Vada Saintsing, Estella Kennedy, Lillie Kennedy, Lizzie Kennedy, J. T. Mendenhall, Stamey Mendenhall, M. J. Mendenhall, John T. Hilton, L. A. Hilton, J. Ad. Kennedy, Mary J. Kennedy, D. R. Kennedy, N. E. Kennedy, L. W. Johnson, Annie J. Johnson, E. W. Saintsing, Lewis Kennedy, W. A. Ensley, J. W. Veach, H. V. Regan, Cromer Regan, W. Hamilton Kennedy, Bertha Cecil, and Mary L. Kennedy.



CHARTER MEMBERS LIVING TODAY

These twenty-nine members were faithful and devoted to the work of this young church. One of these, Mr. W. A. Ensley, was known throughout the community for his great love of music. As long as his health permitted, he gave of his time and talents to the music of the church. He organized a singing school each summer and would spend every Saturday teaching the rudiments of music to those interested. He taught many to sing to the glory of God.



W. A. ENSLEY

On the second Sunday in April, 1909, 12 members were added to the roll by certificate, and again on the fourth Sunday 11 others. In less than three months 52 had been received into the membership of the congregation that was ready to come into the Classis of North Carolina. At the annual meeting of the Classis, April 27-May 1, 1909, held in the First Reformed Church in Greensboro, the first "overture" was the request of Zion Reformed Church to be received into that ecclesiastical body. The Church was received, placed on the roll of the Classis and referred to the Committee on Missions. Elder John W. Veach was seated as a properly elected delegate. There was another "overture" that directly concerned Zion, a request from the congregation for aid in the erection of a building. The sum asked was \$200.00. The request was granted. The statistical report for Zion congregation had two items: 52 members, and the amount raised for congregational purposes \$1,400.00.

The Building Committee and the Finance Committee appointed at the organizational meeting had been working. In less than three months a beautiful chapel had been erected and all paid for except the amount of the grant asked of the Classis. The members, and many people of the community, donated timber, labor, and all that goes into the building of a House of God. The report of the Classis Committee on Religion and Statistics that year stated that: "a new and thriving congregation has been organized near Thomasville." Later in the sessions of Classis, the Committee on Missions recommended that "Zion Reformed Church be committed to the care of Rev. D. E. Bowers," the newly elected pastor of Bethel Reformed Church, High Point. Rev. W. H. McNairy was forced to give up his pastoral work for a while because of the condition of his eyes.

The new pastor threw himself into the work with an evangelistic zeal and passion. Before the end of the year 1909, Rev. Bowers had added 66 members by Certificate, by Baptism and Confirmation, and by Renewals of Profession. The record book shows that the Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated September 26, 1909 with 53 communing. Also that the Rev. J. D. Andrews was the guest preacher at the Revival held that year. On Sunday, October 3, 1909, 42 persons were received into the membership of Zion Church. Some of the members today remember this occasion. Those persons came forward filling the chancel and the center aisle all the way to the door. On December 14, 1909, Zion again overtured the Classis to be placed in a new Charge with Bethel Church located in the western section of High Point. This was granted and Rev. Bowers officially became the pastor of Zion Church.

On March 27, 1910, at a congregational meeting, J. T. Mendenhall was elected Elder for two years and Burgess Morris for one year. L. W. Johnson was elected Deacon for two years and W. F. Burton for one year. These persons were ordained and installed the second Sunday in April.

Rev. Bowers served as pastor of Zion Church until his resignation on December 12, 1911, at which time he accepted a call to Waughtown Church (First Church, Winston-Salem).

The second pastor of Zion Church was the Rev. C. C. Wagoner, who became the pastor of the Bethel-Zion Charge October 8, 1912. He served with faithfulness in building the young congregation into a stronger fellowship of believers. At the next meeting of the Classis, held at Mt. Zion Church, Rowan County, May 15, 1913, Rev. Wagoner resigned as pastor of the Bethel-Zion Charge and Zion Church was placed in the newly formed Emanuel Charge, consisting of Emanuel, Calvary, and Zion Churches. However, Rev. Wagoner continued to supply Zion for almost a year until the coming of the Rev. John B. Swartz.

Rev. Swartz became pastor of the Emanuel Charge March 2, 1914, and served for a little over one year, until May 21, 1915. It was in 1914 that Zion's first pastor, Rev. D. E. Bowers, returned to his former parish as the guest minister at the Annual Revival.

On December 14, 1915, the Rev. Dougan C. Cox became pastor of the Emanuel Charge, thus also of Zion Church. His was the longest pastorate of any of Zion's pastors, as he served ten years until December 31, 1925. At that time, the Emanuel Charge could not obtain a pastor, so Zion Church secured as a supply pastor, the Rev. Jacob A. Palmer, the pastor of Heidelberg Church since 1918. Rev. Palmer served for the entire year 1926 and part of 1927.

The first Church, a one room building, soon became overcrowded. The Sunday School needed additional room. Thus in the year 1926, seven Sunday School rooms were added, and also a Portico was built to the front of the Church. Two of these rooms were to the right and left of the pulpit and could be used as "transcept rooms" to the Sanctuary. Seven men came forward with one hundred dollars each and others gave generously toward this new work. The addition was pushed to completion within a few months. Later in the fall of

1926, a new warm air heating system was installed. The cost of the building operation was as much as the first cost of the Church.



OLD CHURCH WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS—USED UNTIL MARCH 30, 1958

In 1927, the Rev. Sterling W. Whitener and family returned to North Carolina from Hunan Province, China, where they had been missionaries under the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church. They had been forced out of China by the "Red Revolution". Rev. Whitener agreed to become the supply pastor for the Emanuel Charge in 1927 and served until 1928. The Charge would gladly have extended a call to Rev. Whitener, but he and his family had dedicated their lives to the Foreign Mission Board and thus returned to their work in China.

On May 8, 1929, the Rev. Sidney C. Safrit became the pastor of the Emanuel Charge. During that year, the Rev. A. Odell Leonard was the guest preacher at the annual Revival Services. Rev. Safrit served the Charge until February, 1933.

During Rev. Safrit's pastorate, the Memorial Association was organized. This organization, which had its beginning during the pastorate of Rev. D. C. Cox who appointed a Memorial Committee, came into being on October 7, 1931, with its purpose that of keeping the cemetery clean. The Zion Church Cemetery property was bought in the year 1902. Those who were most instrumental in the purchase of this property were G. W. Saintsing, J. R. Stone, and W. A. Ensley. The land was purchased from W. M. Saintsing. The first bodies buried in the Ceme-

tery were those moved from across the present highway from which place they were originally buried; those being the infant son of G. W. Ensley, and the infant son of Mayfield Hilton. The first adult body buried was that of Mattie Bell Ensley, July 25, 1903.

Rev. Kendall B. Shoffner became pastor of the Emanuel Charge and thus of Zion Church on January 1, 1934. This was the year in which the Young Men's Class of the Sunday School presented the Church with a bell. As a result, a small tower was built and the Church re-roofed. During 1935, the young people's classes of the Sunday School raised money for a new pulpit and pulpit chairs. The pulpit was unveiled in a beautiful service September 22, 1935, with Rev. Shoffner preaching the first sermon. The service was a most impressive one, as it began the annual Revival Services. Rev. Shoffner served as pastor until February 28, 1938, when he resigned to become pastor of St. James Church, Potomac Synod.

It was in 1934 that Zion Reformed Church received a new name and became known as Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church. On June 26, 1934, the Reformed Church in the United States (to which Zion Reformed Church was enrolled) and the Evangelical Synod of North America united in Zion Church, Cleveland, Ohio, to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Soon after Rev. Shoffner resigned, Rev. William C. Lyerly accepted a call from the Emanuel Charge and became pastor of Zion Church on May 15, 1938. In the same year, new and modern hardwood pews were placed in the Sanctuary and the two Transcept rooms at the cost of \$913.20. The walls of the Sanctuary were plastered and the ceiling celotexed at a cost of \$240.00 in 1939. The work in the seating and beautifying the Church was a project of the Ladies Aid Society. This organization for the women of the Church had its beginning in August, 1934. In 1939, the "Honor Roll Class" of the Sunday School presented a large oil painting of Jesus in Gethsemane (Hoffman) as a memorial to Mrs. Clayton Hilton. It was hung on the wall behind and just above the pulpit, and now hangs in the Fellowship Hall. Then, in 1942, the Women's Guild (formally called the Ladies Aid Society) purchased and installed new carpet in the Church. Rev. Lyerly resigned as pastor of the Emanuel Charge on May 15, 1946, to become the pastor of the South Fork Charge.

With the resignation of Rev. Lyerly, Emanuel Church of the Emanuel Charge, overtured Synod to become self-supporting and thus to dissolve the Charge which also consisted of Calvary and Zion. This was done and Calvary and Zion were placed in a Charge constituting the Zion-Calvary Charge in 1946.



MRS. J. VAN CASHATT

It was also in 1946 that the Women's Guild of the Church began to foresee the need of a new Church building in the near future. Thus, a Church Building Fund was started by the Guild, with Mrs. J. Van Cashatt as the Treasurer. This fund grew steadily in the following years.

The Rev. W. Calvin Leonard was called by the newly-formed Zion-Calvary Charge to become its pastor and was installed on September 1, 1946. Rev. Leonard served this Charge until the latter part of 1948, when he resigned and was dismissed as a minister in Southern Synod to become a pastor in the Western Conference of the Methodist Church.

On December 1, 1948, the Zion - Calvary Charge called Rev. Aubrey W. Hedrick to be its minister. In 1950, a new Communion

Table was presented to Zion Church by Mrs. Sherrill Culler in memory of her mother. Several strips of land were acquired during this period. In 1951, a strip of the east and back side of the original lot was received, and the parking lot received considerable improvement. The Church lot was further enlarged in 1952 with the purchase of the corner lot bordering Highway 109 and Hasty Road. Work was also done on the Church in 1952, with the installation of a new and modern oil-burning heating system costing approximately \$1400.00.

Realizing that the Zion-Calvary Charge would soon be dissolved, the Congregation voted in the spring of 1954 to begin work immediately toward the erection of a Parsonage. An every-member canvass for funds yielded a little more than \$8,000.00 in cash and pledges. Three or more lots were offered by members upon which to build the Parsonage. The



THE PARSONAGE DEDICATED FEBRUARY 19, 1956

one offered by Mr. and Mrs. J. Van Cashatt was accepted as the one most suitable. The Parsonage, completed in 1955 at a cost of \$16,700.00, has three bedrooms, a study, a large living room, a combination kitchen, dining room and den. Also, there is a complete basement, a part of which is used as a garage. Dedication Services for the Parsonage were held February 19, 1956, with Dr. H. A. Fesperman, President of Southern Synod preaching the sermon.

During the Seventeenth Session of Southern Synod, held at First Church, Winston-Salem, April 19-21, 1955, the Joint Consistory of the Zion-Calvary Charge overtured Synod to dissolve the Charge effective January 1, 1956. This request was approved and the Charge divided, each congregation becoming self-supporting. The Rev. Hedrick remained as pastor of Calvary Church and as stated supply of Zion until a pastor could be secured. For the first time in its 47 year history, Zion Church became a self-supporting congregation.

In the spring of 1956, the Congregation voted to proceed with the drawing up of plans for a completely new Church building, both a Sanctuary and Educational Building. A Planning Committee was appointed consisting of Stamey Mendenhall, Chairman; Mrs. Marshall Saintsing, Mr. Fonzo Sink, Wayland Hunt, J. Van Cashatt, Marshall Johnson, and Rev. Bobby R. Bonds, Pastor-Elect.



BUILDING COMMITTEE

On July 22, 1956, Rev. Bobby R. Bonds was installed as pastor of Zion Church. Plans were quickly drawn up for the new Church building. An additional strip of land was presented to the Church by Williard Saintsing in preparation for the building program. Completed plans were submitted to the Congregation and approved in the fall of 1956. It was also decided that the men of the Church would secure as much timber as possible in the community for the construction of the new Church. The men took this task to heart and in the early months of 1957, approximately 75,000 feet of lumber were cut, hauled, sawed, sized, and stacked on the building site. The Building Committee was appointed with Stamey Mendenhall, Chairman; Mrs. Blanche Frazier, Mrs. Arkless Saintsing, J. Van Cashatt, M. E. Johnson, and Rev. B. R. Bonds.

In the fall of 1956, the Congregation also voted to use the Church Building Bond System as a means of financing the building of the Church. This was carried out in June, 1957, and \$50,000.00 worth of Bonds were sold. At that time, the Sinking Fund was set-up to pay off the bonds and their interest. Mrs. J. Van Cashatt was appointed Sinking Fund treasurer.



GROUND BREAKING SERVICE

On Sunday, April 7, 1957, the new Church was begun with a Ground Breaking Service. Mr. Levi Johnson, a Charter Member and a member of the Building Committee for the old Church, and Sandra Bowers, the youngest confirmed member and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bowers,

together turned the first shovel of earth and thus a good work was begun. Others that participated were: Claude L. Sink, President of the Consistory and Chairman of the Finance Committee; Stamey Mendenhall, Chairman of the Planning and Building Committees; Fonzo Sink, Superintendent of the Church School; Mrs. Fonzo Sink, President of the Women's Guild; J. Van Cashatt, President of the Men's Brotherhood; Miss Nancy Myers, President of the Youth Fellowship; S. E. Trogdon, Sr., and S. E. Trogdon, Jr., the contractors from Asheboro; Rev. A. W. Hedrick, the former pastor; and Rev. B. R. Bonds, pastor.

During the construction of the Church, much of the work was done by the men of the congregation. Each night for several months, a group would gather at the Church to paint or do other necessary jobs. The ladies also did their share. The Women's Guild purchased and installed the carpet in the Sanctuary. Under the supervision of the Finance Committee, the Sanctuary furniture and windows were offered to the congregation as memorials.

One year after the Ground Breaking Service, on the first Sunday in April—Easter Sunday, April 6, 1958—the first service was held in the new Church which was not yet quite completed. The porch and yard were to be completed later when the old Church had been removed. This first service brought a record attendance of 349 to Church School. Also, 223 communed, setting a new record.

The old Church Building, which had served so well during the years, was sold at public auction on March 29, 1958 for \$210.00. The last regular worship service held there was the Palm Sunday Service, March 30, 1958. The funeral of Mrs. Mary Belle Hilton, held at 2:00 p. m. that afternoon, marked the last service to be held in the old Church. Several months later, the old Church was completely torn down and taken away. After its removal, the front of the new Church was completed and the yard filled-in and grassed.

With this work done, Dedication Services were held December 21, 1958, with Mr. Martin T. Garren, President of the Southern Convention of the Congregational-Christian Churches, as the guest speaker. Dr. H. A. Feserman, President of Southern Synod, conducted the Service of Dedication. Rev. Bonds also participated in the service. The approximate cost of the new Church, including furnishings, was \$100,000.00.

On June 25, 1957, Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church was due to receive another name. On that day, the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational-Christian Churches united into one body named the United Church of Christ. From that time Zion has been known as Zion United Church of Christ.

With the coming of the year 1959, came the Fiftieth Anniversary of Zion Church. In connection with this event, a week of special services are to be held April 13-19, 1959.



CONGREGATION AT WORSHIP, 1959



THE CONSISTORY, 1959



THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP, 1959



THE WOMEN'S GUILD, 1959



THE CHURCH MEN'S BROTHERHOOD, 1959

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The sources from which this history has been compiled are: the Record Book and records belonging to Zion Church; *History of the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church* by J. C. Leonard, D.D.; *A Century and a Quarter in a Rural Church*, a historical sketch of Emanuel, Calvary and Zion Churches by W. C. Lyerly; and various Minutes of Southern Synod.

A special word of thanks must be expressed to the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee appointed by the Consistory. This committee is composed of Mrs. J. Van Cashatt, Chairman; Mrs. Blanche Frazier, and Stamey Mendenhall. It was with their constant help and encouragement that this booklet has come into being.

FUTURE NOTATIONS

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